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"Southern Excellence. Global Success"

9/30/2011

Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

**RE: Grenada Railway LLC – Petition for Abandonment Exemption of railroad line between milepost 622.5 and milepost 703.8. – In Mississippi – STB Docket AB-1087X**

Dear Mrs. Brown:

I am writing in opposition to the application filed by Grenada Railway LLC ("GRYR") for abandonment exemption of the railroad line between milepost 622.5 near Grenada, Mississippi and Milepost 703.8 near Canton, Mississippi, a distance of 81.3 miles in Grenada, Montgomery, Carroll, Holmes, Yazoo and Madison Counties, MS.

I believe the Surface Transportation Board would be doing a great disservice to the regional economy should it approve their request. Currently, nine companies use the Grenada Railway line moving 3,695 cars per year and is documented by existing customers that an estimated 2,000 new cars will be added to that line in the next 3 years. These companies collectively employ 1,895 people and should the line be closed, at least 500 of those jobs might be lost. In addition to the immediate effect on existing industries, the abandonment of the line will put this region at a huge disadvantage when competing for recruitment projects and overall job creation.

Over the past year and a half GRYR increased rates on customers to the point that they had to find different routes for product distribution. Some existing customers decided to use trucking and at least one customer is currently sending products via the northern part of the line (from Grenada, MS to Memphis, TN) to markets located south of the State of Mississippi and into Latin America.

We urge you not to approve GRYR request without taking into consideration the devastating effects the exemption could have on existing customers and the regional economy.

Sincerely yours,

Pablo Diaz, CEO  
Grenada County Economic Development District

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OCT 3 2011

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